

CLAIM LISTING:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously presented) A method of incorporating zeolite in a tampon comprising:

distributing zeolite granules on a first non-woven web; and

bonding a second non-woven web to the first non-woven web so that the zeolite granules are sandwiched therebetween.

24. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 23, further comprising the step of cutting the bonded first and second non-woven webs into one or more strips.

25. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24, further comprising the step of inserting the one or more strips between at least two absorbent pads prior to forming the tampon.

26. (Previously presented) A method of incorporating a zeolite in a tampon comprising:

suspending zeolite powder and a suspension aid in a liquid to form a liquid suspension;

dispensing the liquid suspension on an absorbent pad; and

forming the absorbent pad into a tampon, wherein the zeolite powder is maintained in the liquid suspension when the tampon is formed, and wherein the zeolite powder is immobilized so that it adheres to the absorbent pad after the liquid suspension dries.

27. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein the zeolite granules are one or more natural zeolites.

28. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 27, wherein the one or more natural zeolites is selected from the group consisting of clinoptilolite, chabasite, and any combination thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein the natural zeolite is clinoptilolite.

30. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the clinoptilolite is a thermal type 3 clinoptilolite.

31. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 30, wherein the thermal type 3 clinoptilolite is a potassium aluminosilicate natural clinoptilolite.

32. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 31, wherein the potassium is present in an amount of the order of 4.3% of the zeolite.

33. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 29, wherein the natural zeolite has a solid density of about 87 lb/ft³.

34. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 28, wherein the natural zeolite is a chabasite.

35. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 34, wherein the chabasite comprises a sodium cation as a primary exchangeable cation.

36. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the chabasite is a sodium aluminosilicate.

37. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the sodium cation is present in an amount of the order of 6.7% of the chabasite.

38. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 35, wherein the chabasite has a solid density of about 108 lb/ft³.

39. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 23, wherein each zeolite granule has a particle size between about 400 microns to about 600 microns.

40. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 24, wherein each of the one or more strips has at least 0.030 grams of zeolite therein.

41. (Previously presented) The method as defined in claim 26, wherein the liquid suspension has at least 0.018 grams of zeolite therein.